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LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 14 October 1996 (S/1996/875) concerning the situation in Zaire has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned at the serious deterioration of the situation in eastern Zaire, and at the effect that this is having on refugees, displaced persons and the inhabitants of the region. They express their full support for the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Great Lakes region. They stress the importance of all parties exercising restraint and preventing conflict in the region. They have taken careful note of the recent statements by the authorities in Zaire and Rwanda that they will refrain from action which would further exacerbate the situation. They look to both Governments to relaunch their constructive bilateral dialogue with the aim of a peaceful settlement of the crisis along their common borders, which previously resulted in the issuing of the joint communiqué following the official visit to Rwanda by the Prime Minister of Zaire in August 1996 (S/1996/694).

The members of the Security Council express their full support for your initiative in sending a good offices mission, led by Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahima Fall, to Zaire to consult with the Government of Zaire on ways in which the United Nations can assist in improving the situation there. Given the urgency of the situation, they express the hope that Assistant Secretary-General Fall will be able to make an early report on his visit, and they will consider any recommendations which you may have in the light of that report.

(Signed) Gerardo MARTÍNEZ BLANCO
President of the Security Council

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